

Graffiti crime and prevention

Graffiti is a problem that if left unchecked can seriously damage the reputation of a community and adversely effect the economy and quality of life enjoyed by the residents.

Graffiti is any writing, drawing or symbol applied to any surface without the consent of the property owner or their agent.

Common Targets

Graffiti Crime can occur anywhere the opportunity exists. Some of the more popular targets include:

Public and private buildings

Parks and recreation facilities

Public transit vehicles, stations and shelters

Public telephone booths

Railway cars

Bridges and overpasses

Why should you care?

Graffiti crime can effect your community in many ways, including:

Higher taxes for clean-up

Lower property values

Heightened fear of crime

Cancellation or reduction of education and recreation programs

Removal is important

Graffiti that is not removed indicates that no one cares about the state of the community. A clear message must be sent to those responsible that this type of activity will not be tolerated. The most effective method of deterring Graffiti Crime is removal within 24 hours.

Immediate removal

Timely graffiti removal will help stop the spread and re-occurrence of graffiti. Graffiti writers will not waste their time or materials and are unlikely to return to locations that do not offer a good return for their efforts.

There are many methods of removal that are effective and environmentally friendly. For further information on removal options, consult your local Yellow Pages under Building Cleaning - Exterior.

Reduce the risk of graffiti crime

- Restrict access to walls or vulnerable areas by planting thorny bushes or building barriers
- Increase lighting in vulnerable areas to discourage vandals
- Apply graffiti resistant coatings or protectants on all exterior walls
- Work with local government officials to restrict the sale of graffiti materials to persons under 18 years of age
- If you have information on anyone responsible for Graffiti Crime - call Crime Stoppers at (416) 222-TIPS
- If you see suspicious behaviour in your community - call the police immediately